

The Sun

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The New Head of the Army.

The nomination of Major-General CHAFFEE to be Lieutenant-General and his appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army, or as its military head, will be received with satisfaction by the whole army and with gratification by the entire American people.

For living soldiers of his rank in the world have had as much experience of war as the new Lieutenant-General of the United States Army has seen, and there is none among them whose record we can recall who has seen it in all grades, from the lowest to the highest, as has Gen. CHAFFEE.

At the beginning of the civil war, before he had reached his nineteenth year, he enlisted as a private. For gallant service in many battles, for which he received and by which he earned a commission as a subaltern, he came out of the stupendous conflict a Captain. Thereafter for gallant service on the plains he was promoted to be a Lieutenant-Colonel. In Cuba, in the war with Spain, Gen. CHAFFEE, in the rank of Brigadier and Major-General of Volunteers, won foremost distinction, and to this he added brilliantly in China and the Philippines. His elevation to the rank of Major-General in the Regular army in 1901 was only a just recognition of a lifetime of distinguished services to the nation.

Gen. CHAFFEE now advances to the highest rank and highest place in the American Army after continuous service since 1881, or for forty-three years. He has passed through two great wars, one of them the most tremendous of modern times, and has been engaged actively and prominently in three other conflicts, with the Indians of the plains, in China, and in the Philippines. It is a career which, so far as we know, is singular in the experience of any living soldier of his rank. From a private in the ranks in 1881 he has advanced by steady steps to the head of the army of the United States in 1904. No sphere or condition in the military service is unknown to him. He is familiar with them all, from the humblest to the highest, and is wholly and thoroughly a soldier.

No one can look at Gen. CHAFFEE's face without seeing in it the evidences of rare simplicity and solidity of character and also of the commanding spirit which is now so fully recognized by this appointment. He is the very type of the modest, the brave, the resourceful American soldier. Every step in his advancement since he entered the army as an enlisted man in 1881 has been earned by hard and gallant service. He has never had a "pull." He has not been a favorite of fortune, but has conquered fortune.

The Drug Shop in the Great Department Store.

The report of the committee on adulteration and substitution of the New York State Board of Pharmacy must be unpleasant reading for the many and various enemies of the department stores. The prices of drugs in these stores were so low that they could not be genuine, the committee were told, and an investigation followed. Samples were obtained and analyzed, with results astonishingly favorable to the sellers. Not a single sample was faulty, and the law, secured several years ago by the druggists, and framed entirely in accord with their views, was not violated in a single instance. Yet the same committee found more than three hundred violations of the law in the drug stores of New York, and 35.5 per cent. of all the local druggists were found guilty of substitution or adulteration. As the Board of Pharmacy is made up of druggists, there is no reason to believe that they were prejudiced in favor of the department stores, which are serious competitors of the drug stores and have forced material reductions in prices and, presumably, in profits.

This vindication of the honesty of department store methods is the most pronounced and the most significant that has ever been made public, for the reason that the opposition to the sale of drugs and medicinal preparations in department stores has been persistent for years, and has always been based upon the allegation that in these establishments the public was much more apt to be misled than in other drug stores, which are conducted by men whose success in life depends upon their maintenance of high professional standards.

At least twice within the past eight years bills whose purpose was to prohibit the sale of drugs and even of patent medicines in department stores have been presented to our State Legislature. These bills were prepared by various druggists' associations and had the support of manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of drugs and medicinal preparations. Charges of flagrant deceit on the part of department stores were freely made, and there were even intimations that the public health was threatened. These bills were defeated only because the lawmakers were convinced that they were unconstitutional.

Undoubtedly, many disinterested persons have favored the druggists' view that there was inherent objection to the inclusion of the druggists' trade with the seventy-five other departments embraced in a full-sized modern department store. It suggested possible carelessness in a branch of trade calling for eternal vigilance. Besides, if the drug department of the great department store crowded out the little druggist, where would the public be, especially late at night and on Sundays and holidays, when the big stores were closed? The

necessity of supporting the corner drug store has always loomed up large and imperative, and has been recognized even by the department store owners. Those who refused to run drug departments were actuated chiefly by this feeling, and those who did run them insisted that their competition would not interfere with the neighborhood druggist, simply because he was a necessity.

This idea seems to be justified by experience, for there is yet a plentiful supply of drug stores throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn. That the public has not been injured by the department store competition is manifest in the report of the Board of Pharmacy committee, which shows at once that the drugs dispensed by the department stores were found immaculate and their prices remarkably cheap. Against such a demonstration all the denunciation of the opponents of the department store will fall flat, and the public is likely to view with complacency the vague assertions of agitators and sentimentals that the retail octopus is a menace to its welfare.

Mr. Tillman as a Democratic Unionist.

The Hon. BENJAMIN RYAN TILLMAN of South Carolina has seemed to be about as full of fire and war as it is given to a tropical temperament to be. Largely theatrical fire and war, part of his original scenery and properties; for he is a shrewd and long-headed man, and deep-revolving politician. The amount of importance to be attached to his apparent intransigence and irreconcilableness may be judged from the fact that he is perhaps more popular among his associates in the Senate than any other Senator.

Friday night the Old Hickory Club of Philadelphia gave a dinner, to which Democrats were invited as Democrats and without any reference to their position in the troubles of 1896 and 1900. Mr. TILLMAN sent a letter in which he revived Mr. RAYBOLD's famous maxim of harmony. "The two wings of the party must flap together" if we are to make any progress. He gave this counsel of safety and conservatism:

"We must ignore past differences on matters of policy, but no candidate can succeed who is obnoxious to the South and West, just as no candidate has succeeded who was obnoxious to the East. We must find a man who can command the respect and loyal support of all patriots, and with such a man we will win, because the times are threatening and all conservative men without regard to party will support such a candidate."

A candidate acceptable to all Democrats; that is a prudent general recommendation. But it needs to be specialized and amended. The Democrat who can carry New York and win conservative support everywhere in the man the Democrats are looking for.

The Latest Move Against the Panama Canal.

We now hear little about an invasion of the Panama Isthmus by Colombians, but there is on foot, it seems, an attempt to accomplish by chicanery what could not be attained by force. According to a despatch received by Dr. HERRAN, the Colombian Chargé d'Affaires at Washington, a French tribunal has been requested to prohibit the transfer of the Panama Canal Company's rights to our Government without Colombia's consent. The move is said to have been made by an authorized agent of Colombia, deputy by Dr. HERRAN and Gen. REYES, who have been advised that their position is likely to be sustained by the French courts.

It is true that, under the original concession to the Lesseps company, the canal franchise could not be transferred to a foreign Government without the express consent of Colombia. It is also true that such consent was given in the Hay-Herran Treaty, and constituted part of the consideration for the lump sum of \$10,000,000, and for the annual subvention which we agreed to pay. We do not for a moment believe, however, that, whatever decision might chance to be rendered by a subordinate tribunal, the supreme court of appeal in France, the Cour de Cassation, would hold that Colombia's consent is any longer needful to a transfer of the canal company's franchise, now that the sovereignty over the Isthmus has passed to the Republic of Panama. It is absurd to suppose that two sovereigns can coexist in the same territory, and that the consent of both must be secured by the French corporation, in order to dispose of its property. When France acknowledged the exclusive sovereignty of the Republic of Panama over the Isthmus, she inferentially and necessarily admitted that the new State was subrogated for Colombia in all the rights and privileges reserved to the last named Power in the canal concession. The subrogation is as complete and indisputable as that of the present French Republic in all the rights and privileges acquired by, or reserved to, the Second Empire. Any other view of the situation created by the French recognition of the Republic of Panama would involve France herself in endless difficulties and entanglements.

Not only must the assertion that Colombia retains any rights over the French canal company since its loss of sovereignty over the Isthmus be rejected as a legal proposition, but it will fall short of the desired effect of making French public opinion favorable to the Bogota Government. The effect, indeed, will be the reverse. All intelligent Frenchmen will recognize in the move an attempt to levy blackmail on the canal company at the risk of exposing the poor remnant of its assets to annihilation. Let us suppose, for the sake of argument, that the French courts might forbid the transfer of the canal franchise to our Government without Colombia's consent. What course would the United States then take? We assume that, under no circumstances, would we be accessory to the payment of blackmail. There would thus be open to us two alternatives: A recurrence to an entirely new canal across the Panama Isthmus under a franchise conferred by the new Republic. No doubt, the last-named course would be adopted.

The \$40,000,000, at which our engineers computed the value of the French company's plant and excavations, would remain in our Treasury, to be expended on a new waterway, which might either adjoin or be constructed at some distance from the canal partly built by the French company. The latter's assets would thenceforth be worthless, and condemned to quick extinction. Such would be the inevitable result, were it conceivable that French tribunals could take the illogical position that Colombia can retain her former sovereignty over the Isthmus for one purpose, while forfeiting it for every other.

Through the legal move now made in Paris by Colombia, she has unwittingly confirmed the belief already justified by the tortuous proceedings of the Bogota Senate during the summer, the belief, namely, that not satisfied with the bonus obtainable from the United States, the Colombian politicians were determined to rob the French canal company of a large part, if not the whole of the purchase money receivable for its plant. That is to say, Colombia wanted to be paid twice for its "consent," once by the United States and once by the canal company, but for whose "tremendous expenditure in the Isthmian territory, Colombia would have had nothing to sell. It was the French company that proved to the satisfaction of our engineers the immense superiority of the Panama over the Nicaraguan route. Far from being grateful for a demonstration which their own resources could never have enabled them to make, the Colombians have tried to flitch from their benefactor a part, if not the whole, of the sum forthcoming from the United States, a sum which, by comparison with the outlay, must be pronounced a pittance.

Any pity bestowed upon the Bogota politicians would be wasted. The true objects of compassion are the French investors in the Panama Canal, whom Colombia is still trying to deprive of the last hope left to them.

Duff on Proverbs.

In the *International Journal of Ethics* Mr. ROBERT A. DUFF of the University of Glasgow considers, under the title of "Proverbial Morality," popular proverbs, or, as he calls them, "those maxims of conduct which have reached the dignity of expression in a popular phrase and may thus be said to have become an integral part of the common thought and expression of men." These, he thinks, "have some claim to be regarded as the earliest expression of reflective morality." But are proverbs, properly speaking, moral? The question is not to be answered by reference to the best known collection, attributed to SOLOMON, for these are founded upon the now long rejected theory that "evil pursueth sinners; but to the righteous good shall be repaid," and they are essentially observations of prudence and safety, gnomic wisdom applied to the various relations of life. Nor do we know why Mr. DUFF, contrasting proverbs with folk lore, calls the latter "antiquated or obsolete." For folk custom, which is a part of folk lore, still bears imperious sway; and it is likely enough that Mr. DUFF descends to say: "God bless you," when a friend sneezes; that he throws salt over his shoulder when the saltcraze has been tipped over, and that, at any rate, he throws rice at weddings.

Definitions are a vexation, and we shall be no harder with a proverb than to say that it is a short popular piece of wit or wisdom, sometimes true, sometimes not, often recklessly wrenched to a particular application; and the quotation of it as the final word on a subject by commonplace persons might well be a ground for justifiable homicide.

Mr. DUFF shows that many a proverb has an opponent of equal merit. For example: "The proverb, 'Seeing is believing' seems quite indisputable and even all-wise in its guidance, until the truth that seeing is not always believing is brought before us in the contrary maxim 'All is not gold that glitters.' The confidence begotten of the conviction that 'Well begun is half done' is tempered by the counsel, 'Never halloo till you are out of the wood.' And the encouragement to industry which springs from the maxim 'Procrastination is the thief of time' is qualified by the assurance that 'Everything comes to him who waits.' The comfort to be derived from the thought that 'It is a long lane that has no turning' is rather dampened by remembering that 'It never rains but it pours,' while the opposite assertions that 'Out of debt is out of mind' and that 'A houseman's meat is another man's poison.' And the belief that 'Fortune favors the brave' has also to reconcile itself with the fact that 'Fortune favors fools.'"

Still, "What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander," means that everybody should be treated alike, that justice should be impartial, while "One man's meat" means that tastes differ, or that what is fun for A is death to B. "Fortune favors the brave" is merely a proverb of *toujours l'audace* and a cousin of "Heaven helps those who help themselves." As for "Fortune favors fools," that is a spoiling of a fine old proverb, "Fools for luck and poor folks for children," a cynical phrase in the first part of which you hear the unsuccessful consoling themselves with a sneer for their ill luck or ineptitude. The latter part records a fact still evident to the students of race suicide. "Well begun is half done"—why will Mr. DUFF spoil his proverb? Many proverbs have an exasperating coarseness. "A short horse is soon curried," if he consents, but the figure is admirable. "Haste makes waste," the refuge of the lazy. "Still waters run deep," the ancestor of "The shallow murmurs, but the deeps are dumb," is excellent verbal waterscape; and nine times out of ten it is used to imply that a man who has nothing to say "has a great deal in him." On "Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves" Mr. DUFF makes this solemn commentary:

"The observation of this rule would involve that attention to the smaller duties and needs of life which would necessarily bring about proper devotion to its larger ones. Yet suppose one did follow it, and, taking care of the pence, allowed the pounds to take care of themselves, the result would not be any more admirable. And the fact that folly may mark in this course no less than in the other is

already recognized in the precisely opposite proverb which priorities those who have too great faith in this maxim as a rule of conduct and are 'penny wise, pound foolish.'"

Nobody is going to be made wise by a course in proverbs. It is the poetry, the imagination, the fine profile on the coin minted by unknown hands and not outworn by generations of use, that make proverbs tolerable in spite of their positive and pedagogic application. "Strain at a gnat and swallow a camel"; "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," or "a pair of double-sixes" as DUNDREARY-SOTHEM used to tell us; "When you are at Rome, do as the Romans do"; "Teach your granny to suck eggs"; "Catch a weasel asleep"—age cannot wither them. In many, some sharp trait of observation bobs out, immemorially ancient and wholly modern. "Ca me, ca thee," the pemmican of "logrolling," "Bachelors' wives and maids' children"—a "Mothers' Congress." "Kissing goes by favor"—Gen. LEONARD WOOD. "Brag is a good dog, but hold fast is better"—THRODORP HOODERVELT. "Many can pack the cards that cannot play"—the Hon. DAVID BENNETT HILL. "That was taken with a trowel"—the Hon. ROBERT COCKRAN. "Jack in an office is a great man"—Gov. —. But, as Mr. DUFF says, "proverbs give striking impression to some one aspect of life, and they achieve immortality just in proportion as they are able to wed form and matter in a way which makes these appear inseparable."

The Defence of Manila and Subig Bay.

Admiral DEWEY, the senior member of the Joint Army and Navy Board, has sent an urgent communication to the War and Navy Departments pointing out the necessity of providing immediately for the defence of the city of Manila and Subig Bay against possible aggression. The members of the Joint Board are unanimous in declaring that Manila, as the capital and military headquarters of the Philippines, and Subig, the proposed naval base in the East, are the most important points to be defended in the islands. Admiral DEWEY, expressing the opinion of the board, says:

"The purpose of the Joint Board is to urge that appropriation for the fortification of these two bays should be made by Congress without delay, in order that the development of the naval station and its defence may proceed together, and that the commercial and military resources of the city may be guarded. The consequences of neglect and delay may be nothing less than national disaster."

The United States Government has possessed the islands for more than five years, but the board points out that "not a gun has been mounted nor an earthwork raised to protect any of their harbors." The professional opinion of the army and navy is a unit on the question, and the erection of fortifications to protect Subig Bay is regarded as essential to any plan of defence. Secretary MOODY, in his annual report, declared that Subig Bay was the best spot for our principal naval station in the islands, and that he knew of no other military question concerning which such unanimity existed.

The Navy Department is going to establish great land reserves at Subig Bay, and the new \$1,250,000 floating dry dock is to be placed there. Admiral DEWEY says that the necessity of keeping a fleet there to protect these stores would be hardly less disastrous in its consequences than leaving them unguarded. The Joint Board is unanimously of the opinion:

"That without a fortified naval base in the Philippines the Asiatic fleet cannot keep open the lines of communication for supplies from the United States, or between the army posts within the Philippines, without which supplies the military forces of the United States could not hold command of the islands."

Manila is not, but that Subig Bay is, suited for a naval base and station, and of all harbors in the archipelago it is the best for the purpose.

"That the fortification of Subig Bay is essential to the security of a naval station located there."

"That a fortified naval base at Subig Bay will contribute materially to the defence of Manila Bay."

The report of the board was sent to the Departments in confidence, and by them transmitted to Congress. Its recommendations have a strength not common to all suggestions of the sort, on account of the unanimity of the authorities on this subject.

Why the Jewish Race Prospers.

We give up much space to-day to a discussion by a learned Jew of the present conditions and the inherent characteristics of his race, and no reader of it, we are sure, will dissent from our opinion that the space is well filled.

His argument that Russian proscription of the Jews is due to fear of their moral and intellectual superiority to the run of the rest of the population seems to be supported by the facts of the situation. As he puts it, Russian Jewry is a haven for the people about that makes for an enlightenment in the practical conduct of life and in the things of the intellect and the spirit which the Russian bureaucracy dreads to see working. Accordingly, the plan of confining them to the Pale was adopted and every effort was made to minimize their influence by discriminating against Jews in education and in the professions.

As a consequence, since the more severely restrictive measures against them which began to be enforced in 1882, they have fled from Russia by hundreds of thousands, and probably now the total of these emigrants is toward a million; yet the refugees seem to be not more annually than the natural increase of the 6,000,000 in Russia. Emigration, therefore, is doing no more than to keep the Jewish population stationary.

So far as Russia is concerned, its policy, as our correspondent points out, is manifestly to drive the Jews from the empire. If their conversion to the Greek Catholic Church could be secured their continued residence in Russia would be welcomed; but, of course, the Government recognizes the impossibility of any such religious change in them. Accordingly, it resorts to measures to get rid of them. Minister DE PLATYER has even gone so far as to acknowledge, practically, that the Gov-

ernment is ready to help along Zionism if the purpose of that new Jewish movement shall be made the withdrawal of the Jews from Russia, but that it will persistently oppose Zionism as a propaganda of the distinctive Jewish spirit in Russia. The inference is very plain that the policy toward the Jews is either conversion or extermination, oppression or emigration.

To uproot a population of 6,000,000 from Russian soil and transplant it in a body to another country is regarded by many Jews as a fantastic dream; but it will be seen that our correspondent assumes that the emigration will take place, and that it will be chiefly to this country, to which the main part of the Jews who have fled from Russia during the last twenty years have come already; and he argues that such an immigration *en masse* into the United States would be of advantage to us rather than afford a cause for alarm to be expressed in restrictive measures.

The very virtues he ascribes to the Jews, and which, constitute the grounds of objection to them by other races. Because of their superior temperance, prudence, industry and astuteness, they are disliked and feared as rivals. They are too sure to get ahead. At bottom, Anti-Semitism is a confession of the difficulty of meeting Jewish competition. In these days more religious prejudice counts for very little. Because Jews are the one race of the world of civilization which persists in preserving a distinctive character and emphasizing its peculiarity they become a target for the rest. If the Jews were feeble and slow to progress they would be ignored, but they are strong, in many respects the most self-disciplined race in the world, everywhere and in every field of activity they are steadily moving ahead, and consequently they are feared. Russia wants to be rid of them simply because even with its cruelest oppression it cannot force them down into obscurity. It cannot stop their rapid progress and destroy their moral and intellectual influence. They grow rich and powerful in spite of it, and this demonstration of its failure tends to weaken respect for its autocratic authority among the rest of its subjects.

Our correspondent's analysis of the causes of the social and material advancement of the Jewish race in every country where they settle, and more particularly in this country of equal rights and complete freedom of conscience, is interesting and suggestive.

The Old Cry.

A Republican Senator in Nebraska escapes conviction for bribery on a time allowance. Republican Senators in Washington resist an investigation by Congress of the frauds and irregularities in the Post Office Department.

Is there a paralysis of Republican common sense?

The old cry of "Turn the rascals out!" seems to have some chance of being heard once more.

The map of Saxony, just completed by the geologists and cartographers employed by that kingdom, at a cost of \$1,000,000, is supposed to be the finest map of a large district ever made. Three inches on the map, which is in 123 sheets, represent only a little over a mile in nature. It has been possible on this large scale to introduce with special clearness and accuracy minute information relating to the topography, geology, water supply and cultural features of the Saxon kingdom.

This map shows how adequately and attractively information may be conveyed by the perfected processes of surveying and cartography. But most parts of the world are yet to be mapped in this way. Here is the plain accompanying the latest sheet of the ten sheet map of Asia which is to appear in the first general atlas ever produced in France:

"It is a comparatively simple matter to produce first class maps of nearly all the States of Europe from the large scale maps of the nineteenth century, the results of the Government surveys. But for Asia, Africa, and a large part of the two Americas, the map compiler is compelled to consult dozens and sometimes hundreds of sketch maps, plans and astronomical and barometric tables in order to collect data for the map. Much of this information is contradictory and often unreliable, and the compiler is obliged to weigh and combine various degrees of merit so as to obtain as accurate a picture of the region mapped as our knowledge of it permits."

"It is particularly difficult to produce good maps of the larger part of Asia. Only a vague notion from the course of travel of the more educated of the continent has been obtained, and some of these ideas are plainly erroneous. The mapmaker may trace the meanders of the rivers even when he knows that the material he uses has no precise value; but the best topographers cannot deduce from poor material the correct topographic features of a little known region."

The rapid progress of our own surveys is enabling us to produce better maps year by year.

The Hon. WILLIAM WOODVILLE ROCKHILL, Director of the Bureau of American Republics, is not so busy at his official duties that he cannot devote some time to philology. One of his inventions is disclosed in this sentence from his annual report:

"The number of official reports accessioned since the last report, according to countries, is as follows:

There will be general agreement with the opinion of the Secretary of State, who declares that while the Bureau has not accomplished all that was hoped, "it has been of substantial benefit to all of us."

French Teaching of Living Languages.

M. Gabriel Compayre, Rector of the University of Lyons, in the Educational Review.

The most noteworthy effort which in this year of general election has been made by the French Government is that which it has attempted in its lycées and colleges, is the effort bearing on the organization of courses in living languages. The French hitherto had looked upon the study of the dead languages as the only learned languages. Things might change if the start given during the past year to the teaching of English and German goes on henceforth.

The direct method, which teaches specially the spoken language and teaches it by practical drill, is applied everywhere. Teachers and pupils no longer speak in class, save in German or English, the rest of the time being given to the study of the language with a little perseverance we shall doubtless succeed in ridding ourselves of a fault from which we have suffered too long, the ignorance of living languages.

He Hesitated Between the Links and the Law.

From *Law Times* for January.

A short time after the call of Sir Edward Carson, the present English Solicitor-General, to the English bar, to which he was called without the intention of practicing, he happened to be playing on some golf links in the neighborhood of London with Mr. Justice Dunbar Burton, when he received a telegram that a brief was waiting for him and requiring him to wire whether he would accept it. His inclination was to decline its acceptance, but Mr. Justice Burton urged him to take the brief and appear in the case, and he accordingly did so. He complied somewhat against his will, and thus opened a career of which he never had the faintest dream.

PROGRESS IN MEXICO.

CITY OF MEXICO, Jan. 3.—There is ample reason for belief that this republic is on the eve of new conditions which will make even her really wonderful development of the last ten years seem, in comparison, almost insignificant. Although her upward movement was inaugurated some years earlier, it is only within the last decade that it has taken a form which compels its recognition as a clearly established fact. While much will, of necessity, depend upon a demonstration of the stability of her political institutions, there are many indications of their increasing strength. The foundation has been well laid by Porfirio Diaz. It remains for his successors to erect upon it an enduring structure.

Yet a measure of uncertainty must be recognized. Although this is not sufficiently great to justify alarm, or to cause even a serious apprehension, it is not to be overlooked in any consideration of Mexican conditions. The Mexico of to-day is a new Mexico, largely the result of the work of a remarkable man. He is still the keystone of the political structure. The interval between his death or retirement and the time when Mexico's Government can be regarded as possessing inherent solidity will be the crucial period in Mexican history. Steps are being taken to provide for that interval. Up to the present time, no adequate provision has been made for the Presidential succession. There was no Vice-President. A constitutional amendment by which the difficulty is remedied has been passed by the Mexican Congress and submitted to the various State Legislatures for their approval. If the bill is approved, as is a probability it will be, by two-thirds of the State Legislatures, a successor will be provided, in the person of a Vice-President, at the coming national election. It is hoped and believed that, by this means, a difficult situation may be averted.

Meanwhile, other forces which are in active operation are contributing toward the same end. Among these none is of more vital importance to the country than the proposition for the adoption of some plan of monetary reform. A few years ago Mexico's currency was chiefly a domestic question, whereas it is to-day a matter of international interest. A nation whose annual revenue is \$75,000,000 (silver); whose foreign commerce exceeds \$400,000,000 (silver) a year; and whose foreign commerce shows an increase, for the year, of nearly \$90,000,000 (silver), really needs a dollar which is not subject to 5 or 10 per cent. fluctuations.

A complete reversal of Mexico's present currency system, by an outright substitution of the gold standard, is exceedingly improbable. Any suggestion of such a plan encounters vigorous opposition, not exactly to the theory but to the fact, and the opposition is politically and financially powerful. On the other hand, many, particularly those of the younger and more commercially alert element, see in a continuance of the present system a millstone about the nation's neck retarding its progress, seriously hampering its soundest and fullest development, and even threatening it with grievous danger. An acceptable "straddle" has not yet been discovered. The problem of Mexico is seriously complicated by the fact that she is one of the most important of the world's sources of silver supply, and by the further fact that for many years Mexican coinage has been very extensively used in the Far East. The entire subject is being diligently threshed over and it is in every way probable that some highly beneficial results will follow the discussion and investigation.

Another vastly important influence in Mexico's immediate future lies in railway improvement and extension. It would seem, however, that Mexico has almost reached the limit of wise extension of railway systems for the present. A few areas remain where railways can be constructed with advantage and with reasonable assurance of fair return. When these are covered, as they probably will be within the next two or three years, Mexico will be obliged to give up the idea of extending the railway system, and will be obliged to call a halt on all railway enterprise except the construction of spur lines and feeders. To this point the Mexicans are duly alive, and Federal interest in the present main systems has been due in part to a purpose to prevent the construction of parallel lines whose operation would only result in loss to both. While the Government has taken an active and intelligent interest in railway development, there is no doubt that her officials hold clear and sound ideas on the subject.

Mexico is heavily handicapped by the lack of thrift and energy which characterize probably three-quarters of her entire population. But the bacillus of strenuousness is gradually seizing upon them, and while the process promises to be a slow one, the child inside of the Mexican is beginning to show himself. He is beginning to manifest symptoms of energy and ambition. Hitherto, an object has been lacking. Most of them have been, and still are, a people without wants. Their needs were easily supplied, and their isolation kept them in ignorance of what the world had to offer as objects of desire. Some of these things are now being brought into the widening sphere of life of Mexico's country people, and with the knowledge of them there will surely come the desire for them. That means larger markets for wares of many kinds, and increased industry, resulting in increased production, as a means of paying for them.

Out of Mexico's population of about 14,000,000, there are some 10,000,000 who are just beginning to realize that a yard of cloth and a handful of bananas or a dish of frioles is not the final aim of human existence. In the development of wants among 10,000,000 people, and in the supply of those wants by modern systems of transportation, there lies a full measure of assurance for the future of Mexico. With foreign capital and foreign energy producing them along as they are now doing, the Mexicans may be encouraged upon to get into the procession and to stay there.

A Proper Place for Military Manoeuvres.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: As a veteran of the Mexican Revolution, I have been privileged to participate in and witnessed battles, and I am sure that in selecting a territory for military manoeuvres of troops on a large scale it is important that the topography of the country should give the troops experience under the varied conditions of actual battlefields. It should contain streams, hills, level ground, forests, etc.

The Orange county territory is almost a dead level. There is a stretch of country containing many of the obstacles that would be encountered in actual battle, and it extends through a part of Ulster and Sullivan counties, a long valley out to the mountains, a celebrated battle site. It might also add that in Cuba our troops were forced to manoeuvre in tangled thickets.

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RADIUM IN MEDICINE.

The Possibly Wide Field in Which Its Marvellous Agency May Be Used.

Dr. Samuel G. Tracy in the New York Medical Journal.

The marvellous properties of radium have made it a matter of wide interest to almost everyone, but to the medical man its possible value as a therapeutic agent renders it a subject of special importance. Already many investigators are turning their attention to the treatment of various forms of disease by means of radium, and many fields have been proposed as promising ones for investigation of its action.

For instance, among the various diseases in which it has been tried, a vast field of positive usefulness lies before it. To take its effect upon micro-organisms first: As we know, radium has been found to have a considerable inhibitory effect upon the function of various bacteria, moulds, etc., and it is very likely that it will possess a like effect upon protozoa. This at once suggests a field for systematic employment, should such be practicable.

Now, the property possessed by radium of imparting its activity to various fluids, e. g., normal saline solution, seems to offer reasonable ground for hope that, in this way, it may be therapeutically administered internally, and the fight against bacterial disease be waged directly in the tissues of the body through the agency of the blood and lymphatic currents and the various internal secretions.

Another diseased condition in which the induced radioactive salt solution is likely to prove of service is fermentative, gastro-intestinal disturbance, with its attendant symptoms due to auto-intoxication. It is also hoped that the "radium fluid" will have a favorable effect on malnutrition, the stomach and intestines.

In its use in surgical dressings, compresses,